

CDXC Newsletter

CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

May 1993

Issue 73

EDITORIAL

(Andrew Shaw G0HSD)

Just as we thought things were easing off after the excitement of KH1 and the KH5s, 9G appears on the bands after a very long absence. I was thrilled to work Ghana for the first time and knock another one off the wanted list.

I hope everyone managed to get through. They were much easier to work, only being in West Africa, compared with the long haul over the Pole we had to contend with during the other operations. This was another seemingly well executed expedition with remarkably little trouble from policemen.

The question of these types of mammoth expeditions was brought up on the Cluster system recently and caused some very heated exchanges from many camps. The main argument seemed to revolve around the noise caused, mainly by European stations (British included) that haunts the transmit frequency of many expeditions. This I agreed was disgraceful and, indeed put me off making that extra effort to work KH5K. Not everyone agrees, some seem to think that being sworn at and making your life hell while trying to pull out a weak signal, is all part of the fun. Maybe it is and I am missing something. Indeed one acid drop that oozed through my letter box ending in the words "One day you will understand" seems to show that, for some, DX comes first, last and always,

regardless of the way the hobby gets dragged through the mud in the process.

The second thrust to the argument was aimed at DXpeditions. Here, I had to agree with Don, G3XTT who clearly laid down the need for large, big budget expeditions in order to put such rare places as KH1, KH5, VP8 etc. etc. on the air. They are not just ego trips, as G4LJF said after completing the near fatal KH1 trip, it is easy to say such things from the comfort of home. DXpeditions are not the cause of the rot that has set in to some areas of DX chasing, the rot is in all aspects of life...those who cannot bear to see others enjoying themselves. The only thing we as members of one of Europe's premier DXing organisations can do is, by example, to set standards of excellence amongst ourselves and fellow Europeans.

As you are aware, this is the last Newsletter I will be editing. I have enjoyed, for the most part, this role in CDXC. A role that has expanded considerably over the last two years as we have increased membership and responsibilities. I wish to thank all of you who have contributed, DTPed, stapled, printed and made the whole thing possible, and I wish my successor the very best of luck for the future. Please keep sending your contributions to me, and I will pass them to the new editor once he has been formally elected at the club's ARM in May.

Best 73s Andrew

Secretary's Update

(Alan Jubb, G3PMR)

Hello, all. Well, band conditions haven't been too bad, and my country score continues to creep up, in spite of my modest antenna, with VK9LM, 5R8DJ, and T5THW as new ones in the last couple of weeks. Didn't make KH5K, though. QSLs from S2, S9, VP8CBA (S. Georgia), C9, D2, KH0 & ET have helped the confirmed total. Being at home (another John Major statistic) for the last 6 months has given me a little more time for DXing, in between job hunting. The competition for DX is certainly less during the week, which increases the chance of my pip squeak signals being heard! Meeting Jim Smith at the Verulam Club was a bonus, & I'm pleased to be able to report that he was full of praise for CDXC both publicly, and privately.

CDXC Badges

John Forward, G3HTA, who has done sterling work producing the personalised CDXC badges for the last few years, reports that both the materials and capability for producing badges are fast running out. We are therefore going to have to find an alternative means of producing the badges. Perhaps, therefore, this is the time to change the badge design. What do you think? Are you happy with the relatively cheap badges that we currently have? Should we go up market, and have a more expensive (eg enamelled) badge, which would be chargeable? Should the badge be bigger? Smaller? Please let me know your views.

LOGO

Philip Weaver, VS6CT, has suggested that CDXC should have a

more interesting logo, and has provided copies of the HIDXA & International DX Association logos. What do you think? If we're going to change the badge & the logo, the two things should be done together.

CDXC - What Is It?

I've had **zero** response to the request in the last News Letter for input on what the CDXC should be doing. Does this mean that every one's happy with the way things are? I can't believe that! So, come on, let me know what we should be doing.

News Letter

I've heard a moan or two that there wasn't much in the last News Letter. Well, the News Letter isn't a publication produced by the Committee for the Members - it's produced by the *Members for the Members*, so **PLEASE** let Andrew or his successor have any items you have of DX interest.

Do you think we should have a regular DX News slot? Bren, G4DYO, has offered a supply of information. Is this what the News Letter should be carrying? Please let the editor know.

Phuket

Phil, VS6CT reports that he is planning to buy a retirement home at the Phuket Palace Condominium, Phuket. Phuket is a Thai island (AS-053) in the MALAY PENINSULA WEST group. So look out for some activity from there from December 1995.

London Amateur Radio & Computer Show

Many thanks to those members who introduced themselves to me at

Picketts Lock - it was good to meet some of the faces behind the names.

BBQ - don't forget to let me know if you are coming to the CDXC BBQ at Herb, G/OZ7SM's QTH on June 26th.

International HF Convention Exhibition Station

There will again be a special event station at the 1993 IHFC. Those interested in operating on the day please contact Neville, G3NUG, who is again master minding the station organisation.

I shall again be organising a rota of operators outside the event. Full details will be announced nearer the time on PacketCluster. If you are not on the Cluster, and would like to operate with the special event call sign from your own QTH, please let me know in good time.

AH1A & KH5K

Congratulations to CDXC members Ian, G4LJF, & Vincent, G0LMX on two first class DXpeditions. It's a pity that propagation into the UK wasn't a little better, however, but that was hardly the fault of the DXpeditions! The usual 'knockers' have been around, but they should be ignored. It's so easy to criticise from the comfort of one's shack. I didn't work either of these DXpeditions, but recognise that that was a combination of my modest station, and less than optimal conditions. I *know* that I need to make substantial improvements to my station, especially in the area of antennas, but what I can do will be limited whilst the job situation remains as it is. Any way, well done Ian & Vincent & fellow operators.

That's it for now. Good DXing to all. Alan, G3PMR

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Deadline for next Newsletter :
21 May 1993

***DON'T FORGET THE
A.R.M. - 20 MAY AT
G3WGV!!***

(MAP ENCLOSED)

CORRECTION

Please note that the CDXC Contest Co-ordinator is Bruce G4WVX and not G3WVX as printed in the last Newsheet. Please contact Bruce if you would like to take part in any of the CDXC contesting events (first one will be NFD - see notice elsewhere in this Newsletter).

CDXC SUMMER BARBECUES

There are to be *two* barbecues this year thanks to Herb, G/OZ7SM, Derek G4BLX and Val G4MCD.

BIKE RIDE BARBECUE: Derek and Val have once again kindly offered members of CDXC an open invitation to come along to their annual barbecue to be held at Ditchling, West Sussex on 20 June, the day of the London to Brighton Bike Ride. They live half way up the hill that the cyclists have to climb and they pass right past the garden gate. All CDXC members are more than welcome to bring some food and drink (and swimming togs!!) and join in the fun. Full directions will appear on the PacketCluster or can be obtained from Derek QTHR. Please note that special arrangements are made for the barbecue regarding the traffic flow so please follow instructions!!

BARBECUE - G/OZ7SM: Herb, G/OZ7SM & his XYL have very kindly invited all CDXC members & attachments to a LUNCH TIME barbecue at their Worcestershire QTH, on Saturday June 26th. This is a great opportunity to meet other CDXC members & have a natter, so please put it in your diary now. If you plan to attend, please let me know via any of the usual channels - please DO NOT contact Herb or his XYL regarding arrangements. Full details will be published nearer the time.

Alan Jubb G3PMR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Herb Asmussen, G/OZ7SM

Tried unsuccessfully to build a cats-whisker radio in 1944. A senior at school got me started with a signaller tube detector listening to BBC on 41m.

After the war ended we were a group who built Hartleys with AM and O-v-2 receivers on 14MHz with home-brew calls like 807, 3 Tommy Dorsey etc.

Licensed as OZ7SM on my 16th birthday, so that makes it 47 years now!

Was very active from 1946 until 1951 on all Short Wave bands including contests, mostly phone. Almost bungled my high school leaving certificates!

Went to university and studied electronics and in 1955 I left Denmark for Shanghai, China. QRT there and only listened sometimes on 20m BC to KG6s and KR6s etc.

Transferred to VS6 in 1960 and worked as 'guest operator' from VS6CL, G3ODJ, now silent key. In 1962 shared a flat and call with VS6BE from the very top of Victoria peak. Now SSB with a Collins 75A4 and KSW1.

Became quite active in HARTS and in 1963 became the Honorary Secretary and when glancing through the old minute books found that there was a dormant club call! So I got VS6AJ activated at the Honorary Secretary's QTH! (All visiting hams were allowed to operate from my QTH at decent hours as were other non-British hams who were stranded in Hong Kong without a licence). You may know VS6DO, Paul, of past 80m and 160m fame. He joined the HK police when he was just over 16 years old. He was considered old enough to roam the streets at night and chase the criminals, but with no guardian in VS6

'the stamp sellers' as we called the post office & telecom department did not give him a licence before he was 18! So Paul was a frequent user of VS6AJ.

I had been campaigning with several others, including Sen. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, for reciprocal licensing. The Danish PTT was not very helpful in the beginning. But when I threatened to go to the media and tell them that Denmark had sold Danish territory to the US (at that time there were US hams operating as KG1s from Thule Air Force Base, OX-land) I was gently but firmly advised that 1) I better shut up, 2) this was a matter for the Defence Ministry and 3) the PTT would discuss reciprocity with the US. Whatever triggered it, I don't know, but when reciprocity finally came, the Danish PTT sent a cable to the GPO in Hong Kong to advise them that I now could be licensed! The GPO invited me over and I could pick my own call: VS6AD.

Made a mini-DXpedition to Macau when it was still CR9 where we used CR9AK's call, rig and Telrex beam. We were VS6DK Phil, (a K7xxx), JA1AER Taizo, and myself. (By the way, ran into JA1AER, Taizo at the RSGB HF Convention. He is now GW0RTA in Deesdale!). Phil took care of the opening to W-land, Taizo got the Japanese to QRX until there were no condx to neither W nor Europe. And I tackled the Europeans. It worked super; 4000 QSOs in little over 40 hours!

Moved to Germany after 12 years in VS6 to Munich as DJ0SB but not quite so radioactive as my new job required more attention and above all travelling all over the globe. I have visited 107 countries (if I include EI, GM and GW its 110!)

Moved to Florida in 1985 and was quite active from there as W4/OZ7SM. Made a couple of small operations from Abaco, Bahamas, /C6A and Barbados as 8P9FB.

Moved again to my present job in Coventry and after living three months in an apartment in **High** street, rented a house three miles north of Stratford-upon-Avon called **Highpoint** with a 20 miles clear view 360 degrees! Thought this was **the** ultimate DX QTH. However I have since bought an old farmhouse with approximately 3 acres at **Gorcott Hill**. (note the escalation!). Presently quite active on all HF bands with an IC781 plus linear. 60 ft Versatower with a Cushcraft A4 (A3WS in the pipeline acc. to QSP from Santa Claus), Delta loop for 40 & 80 and an R5 for all-round listening. Present status 262/220 (still need QSLs from GJ, GM and GW!), next goal Honor Roll and of course 'worked them all'.

From Keith, G3VKW

My interest in radio started at the tender age of 9, as a result of being given a Radio Experimenter's kit for a Christmas present, whilst living in W9 Land (my father was working there for B.O.A.C). The kit allowed you to build several types of receiver and a medium wave transmitter!! which from memory, had a range of about 50 yards.

After constructing the various rx's and tx several times, it was like a radio Meccano set, I started buying various magazines at the book store, about radio titles such as "Popular Radio" and "Popular Electronics" and became aware of "Amateur Radio" and some of the Rx's and Tx.s of the day (1960) and that there was a basic licence called the "Novice" which looked fairly easy, and the

minimum age of 9 required to hold the licence (again from memory). One big problem however arose which stopped me holding a U.S. Novice licence, that was the fact I was not a U.S. citizen, a big disappointment with no way around it. At the age of 12 my father was posted to Lagos in 5N Land, so the U.S. citizen problem was no longer a problem.

When in Lagos I managed to acquire a Japanese "National" broadcast RX, my first Short Wave Rx, and put up a long wire antenna, and started SWLing to Broadcast and Amateur stations, however with poor bandspread this wasn't very successful. I was sent "Home" to school, in fact to Yorkshire, as I had relatives there, and found out after some months one of the Prefects was also keen to become an amateur and, at the annual open day, to my surprise there was an Amateur Radio station operating, I think from the Pudsey Club, but all they seemed to do was CW which of course didn't impress me because I couldn't understand it. However, one of the op's kept telling the onlookers where they were in QSO with.

I was hooked, so a letter to Waterloo Bridge House to find out how to become a Novice was sent the very same day, about 2 days later back came a thick envelope full of "Bumph" but nothing about the Novice

"There is only one Class of Amateur Licence in the UK."

Ughh! I started reading the reams of paper and saw that the minimum age was 14 and that you had to sit a "City and Guilds" exam followed by a 12 wpm CW test. I was 13 by now and back to Lagos for summer holidays. Lagos is not a nice place in the Summer months, it seems to never stop raining, and the thunderstorms are quite spectacular. Also

a longwire antenna seems quite hazardous. The QRN level made SWLing virtually impossible. Back to school in England and off went an order to the RSGB for an RAE examination manual. When that arrived I was totally depressed, all this stuff about reactance etc. the book disappeared somewhere, only to be dug out 18 months later. I was now the proud owner of a 19 Set, with a mains psu (worth a lot more now than the £4-10s-6d I paid for it) and was listening daily to 80 metres. A Lafayette HE-30 arrived for Christmas 1964 (nice Santa) and 20 and 15 mtr Swl-ing began, also I learned how to receive SSB. I became a Collector of QSL cards (Lots of 5A's) with my own proud QSL card bearing the A-4690.

Finally in Sept 1965 I enrolled at Brookland's Technical College for the RAE course, due to work I had done from the RSGB RAE manual, I sat the RAE in Dec. 1965 and followed that up with a CW test in July 1966. I heard the post arrive on that fateful day.

G3TWG at 06:45 on 13 Jul 1966 was my first QSO...I can still remember it today. 32 AM 160mtr QSO's followed during that fateful day.

As a prize for passing my Morse Test, my Dad took me down to Brian Ayres, a local emporium, and I traded in the HE30 for an AR88D for the additional sum of £12. What a difference, especially with the Xtal Filter on CW Rx instead of the "Q" multiplier on the HE30. So the main operation was on 160 mtrs A.M. during the day and C.W. after dark. 160 mtrs at the time was similar to 2mtrs F.M. now, with lots of local activity. My first TX cost £6-10s-0 to build using surplus bits but a new dial, and meters. However, with the rather poor range of 160 mtrs with about 6

watts output, the rig was modified to operate on 80mtrs which meant QSO's with Europe. In 1966 there were not many EU counties licensed for 160 mtr operations; only OK (CW only) and PA, DL, (again from memory). After a short while, due to the success of the 80 mtr mod, the tx was changed to cover 40 mtrs as well, and that's when the fun began, even with about 12 watts input on CW.

In 1968 I finally made it, we had moved QTH to Weybridge, and I aquired a Minimitter 5 Band Transmitter, for £15 from Chris G3VLW who had just purchased a KW Vespa. What a lump, a pair of 807's modulated by another pair, and 866 mercury vapour rectifiers and a whole 150 watts input all built into a huge cabinet and weighing more than the AR88D. this fed a Longwire antenna thru' a Tiger Atu which didn't have an Swr meter but an Antenna Current meter which you tuned for max "Smoke". This could lead to a very interesting situation, where if you mismatched the rig to Atu, the Coax between the two melted!! quite easily, as we used 70 ohm TV coax in those day's. I soon built a Moni match, a SWR bridge, as they are known now, and that cured the melting Coax problem, and changed to Dipole Antennas soon to be followed by a 2-band home brew Vertical for 10/15 mtrs. On 10/15 mtrs with the Longwire, I managed to work UA's etc but found Stateside contacts were few and far between. Swapping to the dipoles made working W's fairly easy, but my first contact after a CQ call with the Groundplane made me fall off the Chair, 59++ from a "ZP" - look out World here comes DXCC.

The Minimitter TX I am sure was not a transmitter at all, but had been purpose built to be the most effective

TVI generator in history, bearing in mind not many households had UHF television in 1968. but a Low Pass filter and operating outside the limited TV hours gradually increased the worked score, mainly on CW and AM. I joined B.E.A in 1969 as a Passenger Agent, and after saving hard finally purchased a KW 2000 (early model, with one 6146) and with about 50 watts output found how much better SSB was, added to this a TH3 Junior Tri-bander in Oct 1970, and Wow isn't DXing easy, but still found at times I wasn't getting thru' so I built a Linear Amp using a pair of 811a's and with the Legal limit, there wasn't much competition. Having a Beam in "G" land and a Linear in those days you were quite a Rare station.

When I look back in the logs and see the DX contacts made using only about 50 watts output, and remember what was considered QRM, I am glad I am not a new "G0" call. Sorry to sound depressing but as many of the older licensed members read this, I am sure they would agree with me. They like me would not like to have to start All Over Again. There seemed to be far more good manners and tolerance, and above all patience, than what is shown now. Unfortunately it's bound to get worse I think because certain governments do not clamp down on their Nationals, and of course one Lid gets away with it and others soon follow suit. and G Land is no exception. This can be shown by listening to the 2 mtr Repeater system. I have due to QTH moves, low sunspot activity, tried most Bands and modes, but seem to still prefer the hustle and bustle of HF. I think that one of the great things of this hobby, is that if you get bored with one aspect, there is always a different mode or band you can change to, and feel that

this is one of the main benefits of an A Class licence.

Easter last year saw the erection of an 80 mtr Dipole, which was resonant on 3750 KHz. I left it where it was, and after years of Phone only started to use CW again. Well the Bug has caught, cannot give it up, and what a pleasure to find humour and wit again, and enjoy working the World, normally with 100 watts, not only that but having QSO's with Novices and remembering the time I would have given my right arm, to be able to get on the air with 5 wpm CW.

After years of moving about I finally settled down, and got married soon to have a Harmonic, only to find that my Brother in Law and Nephew are now also Licensed, due to me introducing them to this wonderful hobby.

From Ron, G6LX

A REMINISCENCE OF THE 1950's

A recent announcement of the death of US Air Force General Curt LeMay, reminded me of an interesting experience that occurred during the very early days of amateur single-sideband. As one of the nuts who experimented with this mode in the early 1950's and a regular equipment reviewer for the Short Wave Magazine, the late Austin Forsyth asked me to write and edit a new SSB column for the Magazine. I believe this was the first regular SSB column in any magazine, although there had been specific articles in other magazines a few months earlier and QST later introduced their 'On the Air with Single-Sideband'. The SWM SSB column was well read and syndicated to a number of amateur magazines in many parts of the world, including the USA where SWM had an arrangement with CQ.

In the mid-50's, I received a request from K0AF, General Butch Griswold, the Deputy Commander of the US Strategic Air Command for publicity in my column for amateurs to co-operate in a series of SSB tests being conducted by SAC on the amateur bands. Butch, was an old friend, who I first met during the war when he commanded a Flying Fort Wing in the UK and later when I had almost daily AM and CW contacts while he was KG6AF in Guam. He was also a frequent visitor when he did a spell as Commander US Air Forces Europe, based in High Wycombe.

This was at the height of the Cold War and SAC were spearheading the nuclear deterrent by flying missions on a 24 hour basis in many parts of the world. Immediate response was the name of the game and Butch explained the need to have direct voice contact with all SAC aircraft from their HQ in Omaha Nebraska. At the time SAC were using a network of amplitude modulated relay stations and these were not providing the communications reliability that was needed. Butch and his boss, Curt LeMay (another licensed amateur) wanted to try SSB, but there was a lack of equipment and Air Force ground stations that could transmit or receive the mode.

I am not sure who suggested using amateurs and amateur equipment for the tests, but that's exactly what happened. SAC fitted out a K35 tanker aircraft (a version of the 707) with a number of operating positions and a variety of antennas and amateurs worldwide were asked to listen and work K0AF/AM during the tests. Various manufacturers of amateur SSB equipment were invited to provide equipment on loan and supply operators. SAC felt this was a good opportunity for

equipment makers to familiarize themselves with the operational requirements and, of course it also enabled SAC to assess the equipment that was available. Those who accepted the invitation were Art Collins, W0CXX, Bill Hallagan, W9AC (Halicrafters), Mort Kahn, W2KR (Temco), Barry Barker, W3BW of Barker and Williamson and Don Merton, K2AAA of Eldico. For comparison with the SSB, there was a team of Air Force radio technicians to operate over the existing SAC amplitude modulated network.

Art Collins and Bill Hallagan joined the flight at Offut Air Base, the SAC HQ in Omaha and some initial tests were made en-route to New York to collect the others. K0AF/AM then headed for Greenland and the Arctic which was a key area for SAC communications. Amateurs world-wide were contacted on 14 MHz SSB from this area during several flights over the North Pole and other arctic areas before heading for London. I met the team at Heathrow and spent several days showing them the sights and we had several get together's with other sidebanders who they had worked. I was invited to join the flight, first to Algiers, then to Saudi Arabia, Bangkok, Japan and the Philippines, before returning to the USA via the Pacific. Unfortunately, I was only able to take advantage of the first sector as my boss was not prepared to lose me for the three or four weeks of the whole trip.

The test flight was highly successful proving the superiority of SSB as over 900 different amateur contacts were made and SSB contact was maintained on a direct basis between the aircraft and the USA throughout the whole flight. Although other and more

extensive tests took place later, the K0AF/AM operation opened the way for the adoption of SSB as a prime communications mode for the SAC.

Several years later, I was invited to spend a weekend as a guest of Butch at Offut and I was shown photographs and the logs of the trip. I was also shown the latest Collins SSB transceivers that had been designed for SAC and were being installed in their aircraft.

As a tailpiece, it should be mentioned that the RAF also carried out similar test flights comparing SSB and AM, however, the British authorities were not as forthcoming as their US counterparts, so the results were not made public. Apart from Curt LeMay, Mort Kahn, W2KR, Art Collins, W0CXX and Bill Hallegan, W9AC are also Silent Keys, but Butch is still active and is now living in California, as is Don Merton, K2AAA, who can often be found on 14MHz.

MEMBERS ADS.

TL922 HF Amplifier £1100 ono. Very good condition, 4 years old. Box, Manual, leads, spare fuses etc... bargain at the price (Note: They now cost £1700+ new!!)

TS180S HF Tranceiver. 160-10m. DFC fitted. 250Hz "Fox Tango" CW filter. Extremely reliable and would make a great second rig or ideal for newcomer. £350.00.

PS-30 Heavy duty power supply 13.8v. £80 (TS180S & PS30 £395!!)

KATSUMI EK150. Electronic keyer £50.00

Please contact G0HSD, 0844 342422

The story behind 3DA/G3SXW, 3DA/G3TXF, 3DA/G4FAM and 17,512 CW QSOs.

by Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

Swaziland seemed like a good idea for a CW DX-Trip. There has been only little CW activity from 3DA over recent years, so Roger G3SXW and Nigel G3TXF started making plans to visit Swaziland in southern Africa. Ian G3WVG who had been with us on the H44 trip in 1991 was not able to join us this time. Something to do with the arrival of a new Junior Op. Previous experience had shown that three operators together with two stations was an ideal combination, so we were fortunate that Cris G4FAM was able to join in for 3DA.

The success of a DX-pedition is directly proportional to the amount of advance planning put into it. Roger G3SXW made many research and planning telephone and FAX calls, including contacting several ZS's who had operated from Swaziland and also the most active local in Swaziland: Frans 3DA0BK. Thanks to the assistance from Frans obtaining licences was no problem.

Chris ZS6EZ (ex ZS6BCR), who is an enthusiastic DX-peditioner himself and who has been closely involved with several of the Penguin Island operations, not only kindly offered to lend us a full set of antennas (HF beam, WARC beam and LF vertical) and masts, but also his 20ft trailer with which to transport all the antennas from ZS6EZ's QTH in Pretoria to Swaziland.

The journey to Swaziland started on a Wednesday evening at Heathrow, where the three of us met up and flew to Johannesburg. A busy day and a half was

spent in Jo'burg which included collecting a VW Microbus with tow bar, sorting out antennas, and loading up ZS6EZ's trailer ready for the seven-hour drive to Swaziland. Chris ZS6EZ did all he could to make our trip a success including taking down the A3WS WARC beam from his tower and lending it to us for the 3DA operation.

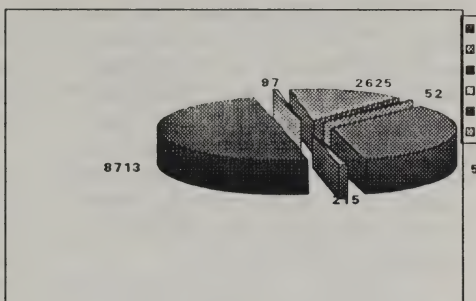
The drive to Swaziland was longer than expected. We arrived at the border post at a few minutes to 6pm. We hadn't realised that that particular border post closed at 6 o'clock. A slightly longer journey on the road and we would have missed getting into 3DA that day.

Our QTH in Swaziland was the Highlands Inn hotel in Piggs Peak, which had been used by several DX-peditions in the past. By the time we arrived at Piggs Peak it was too dark to start any antenna work, so it was early to bed in preparation for the next day. Up at 5am. Nine hours later we had up and running a four element HF beam A4S (with 40m extension), a WARC beam A3WS and a vertical for 40/80/160m. We had brought with us two TS930's, one TS440 and an FL-1000 linear. Chris ZS6EZ had kindly loaned us a TL922 linear. By 1630z on Saturday 10th October we were fully operational and ready for the pile-ups.

Now it was time for what we had come for: lots of CW QSOs and making it easy for everybody to work 3DA on CW. During the next eight days, despite some pretty awful HF propagation we made 17,512 CW QSOs.

The overall QSO breakdown by continent was:

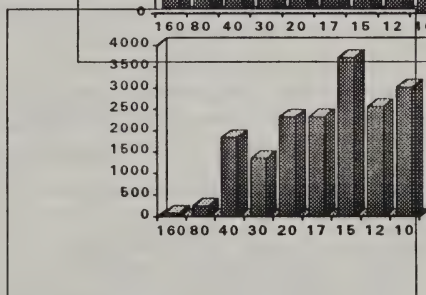
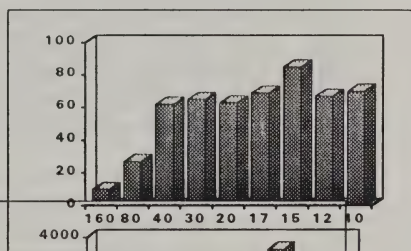
33.2%	North America	5,810
1.2%	South America	215
49.8%	Europe	8,713
14.9%	Asia	2,625
	Africa	97 0.6%
	Oceania	52 0.3%
	Total	17,512 100%



The total number of countries worked was 127. The band QSOs and countries were:

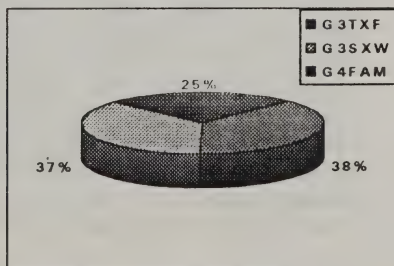
QSOs DXCC

160m	90	10
80m	250	27
40m	1,841	62
30m	1,353	65
20m	2,327	63
17m	2,333	69
15m	3,719	85
12m	2,572	67
10m	3,027	70
Total	17,512	127



QSOs

3DA/G3TXF	6,647
3DA/G3SXW	6,435
3DA/G4FAM	4,430
Total	17,512



For logging we used three notebook PC's and K1EA in DXpedition mode. The three logs were subsequently combined into a common database which was used for generating the QSL labels. By mid November, just three weeks after the 3DA operation direct QSLs had already been received for over 2,500 QSOs, which gives some indication of the demand for 3DA on CW.

During the operation particular attention was paid to possible grey-line openings on LF and this paid off with two excellent, but short, dawn (0315z) openings to W on 160m. There were similarly good openings to W at the same time on 80m. We also kept an eye open for the JA sunrise openings at 21z, but this path was more difficult. The JA sunrise signals on 80m were never as good as the W signals at our own sunrise. There were some good, but also relatively short, LP HF openings to JA.

LF propagation to Europe could only be described as patchy. Great efforts were made to work Europe on 80/160, but only relatively few QSOs were made. Conditions were not on our side.

After eight days of operating we finally closed early on Monday morning October 19th. 3DA/G3SXW made the last QSOs on 30m at 01z. Just three hours later at 04z we had to be up and packed ready for the long drive back to Pretoria. All the antennas and trailer were unloaded at ZS6EZ's QTH. We thanked Chris ZS6EZ for all his help in making our 3DA CW trip possible and then we dashed for the airport and the fourteen hour flight back to Heathrow.

None of us can remember anything about the flight home. We all just slept solidly for the whole flight. That's what happens after eight days of continuous CW pile-up operating.

BERMUDA 1993

Bob Whelan, G3PJT

When the chance of tacking a few days holiday onto the end of a US business trip came up I immediately thought of another chance to operate the Commonwealth Contest from a more unusual location than Cambridge. Unfortunately as things worked out the trip was too late in March to fit in the sacred second weekend. But I did find it relatively inexpensive to dog leg on the US to UK return leg and visit Bermuda, (in fact it was cheaper to have a full package holiday in VP9 with the US leg than the direct return fare to Columbus!).

VP9 licensing couldn't be easier, a fax to the Telecommunications Authority resulted in a 'by return' 3 month licence. A letter to Tony, VP9HK, showed that I would miss the monthly gathering of the VP9s on the third Wednesday. But Tony also confirmed that the hotel we had chosen should be OK. Following Bren's note in DXNS, Bob, WB2YQH, wrote to fix a sked at the VP9 meeting on 14275 at 0930 local time on Sundays.

The location was the Lantana Colony Club, Sandy's near Somerset Bridge. This is a cottage colony with an

open aspect looking out over the lagoon, opposite Hamilton which was about half an hour by ferry. When I asked for permission to operate, the manager said 'Go right ahead and if you want to throw a wire up into the trees that's fine too', 'Fred Lucas (WIEFI) comes here two or three times a year' : Clearly a 'radio friendly' environment!

I took the IC735 and the 20' vertical as usual, but I also lugged the PS55 PSU too. I badly needed a lighter power supply, any ideas ? The rig, PSU and tuner just fitted into my 'square' carry bag. I took about 50' of RG58 and 30' of wire in case a long wire might be better. In the event I didn't use it. The antenna was ground mounted about 30 yards from the sea but the ground was poor.

As the bag was rather heavy I dispensed with my laptop computer> This is a problem I have to solve for the next trip as I now much prefer computer logging. (My writing is so bad.) I had planned to use SuperDuper in the ROPOCO mode. As I said in DXNS I planned to operate as much as I could on 30,17 and 12 metres. As is the case with all my trips the operating has to fit in. I managed to operate for at least 2-3 hours per day split between morning around breakfast and the evening before dinner.

40m was hopeless, not only was the static very high, we had a few thunderstorms skulking around, but the antenna was not efficient enough. I only heard and worked Ws. 30m on the other hand, was very good, first station was KH6AK, Masa! Followed by a very wide range of countries, JA, VK Eus etc. during my stay. We had a solar storm late on the Sunday which wiped out all bands on the Monday and early Tuesday.

The location itself, was very quiet, there are no overhead power lines

on the colony. The Lantana is ideal for radio, good gourmet food and wine, two pools, individual cottages, croquet, golf nearby, small beach with sailing and close to the ferry and bus!

Not all of the cottages would be suitable for radio. I have a layout of the colony and if anyone wants to go I can indicate the better ones. In all I had about 450 Qs in about 10 hours of operating, mostly on CW of course. I didn't feel that my signal was so strong in the UK. I worked more stations in Eastern Europe, very few Is, I conclude that the skip must have been passing over the UK. I compared my log with another visitor, W1JSM/VP9, Don, who was using a MFJ 9020 5 watt 20m rig and a 10' vertical. Over the Saturday he had 12 Qs in a period when I had 100!

As far as VP9 goes for a Commonwealth Contest Location, then a better antenna would be needed, especially on LF. There was a 250w. power limit on my licence. The VKs/ZLs were not too much in evidence. Caribbean stations were not very strong, of course. I have 100 postcards for direct QSLs, first come, first served. Buying 100 postcards caused consternation in the tourist shop in St. George's.

Congratulations to CDXC member and frequent UK Visitor Fred Laun, K3ZO, in his recent election to the CQ Contests Hall of Fame, and on winning the complimentary round-trip to Finland in the summer of 1993 for his commanding wins in both the CW and SSB legs of the Scandinavian Activity Contests (SAC) (This fb prize is sponsored by Finnair).

PRESS RELEASE - PAPUA NEW GUINEA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY'S FIRST P29 ACTIVITY WEEKEND.

Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia on 16th September 1975. To mark the 18th anniversary of independence, and in order to publicise the Papua New Guinea Amateur Radio Society's "Bird of Paradise" award, there will be a P29 "activity weekend" on 18th-19th September 1993. During the activity weekend, all P29 amateurs (particularly those in "rare" provinces) are being encouraged to get on the air, at least for an hour or two.

Papua New Guinea is divided into 19 provinces, plus the National Capital District (NCD) around Port Moresby, which for the purposes of the "Bird of Paradise" award counts as a separate province. To qualify for the award, stations in Oceania need to work seven P29 stations in at least five different provinces of Papua New Guinea. The rest of the world need only five stations in at least three provinces. The special event station P29PNG, which is only activated on rare occasions, may be substituted for any province, and all QSOs made since 16th September 1975 count. To apply for the award, send a log extract certified by two fellow amateurs (QSLs are not required) with US\$6, AUS \$8, or equivalent, to Dave Immel P29DK, P.O. Box 173, Ukarumpa, EHP, Papua New Guinea. If preferred, you may apply on an official application form which is available from P29DK for an s.a.e. with 2 IRCs or US\$1 to cover return postage.

The "Bird of Paradise" award is in colour and is printed on heavy card. During the activity weekend, please consider that PNG local time is 10 hours ahead of GMT, so activity may start late Friday GMT and there is unlikely to be much activity after about 1400 GMT (midnight local time) on either day. In order to make it easier for overseas amateurs to find P29 stations, the following frequencies are suggested as "centres of activity" for the weekend:

SSB: 3590, 3800, 7090, 7190, 14240, 18140, 21190, 21240, 24940, 28440, 50110.

CW: 3530, 7030, 10080, 14030, 18080, 21030, 24900, 28030, 50100.

Please note that some stations have moved from one province to another and therefore the location of stations should be checked at the time of the QSO. However, for your guidance a list of stations licensed in each province is given below.

GULF PROVINCE: No resident amateurs.

NORTH SOLOMONS PROVINCE (Bougainville): No resident amateurs.

ORO (or Northern) PROVINCE: No resident amateurs.

SANDAUN (or West Sepik) PROVINCE: No resident amateurs.

SIMBU (or Chimbu) PROVINCE: No resident amateurs.

CENTRAL PROVINCE: No resident amateurs. P29DX was active from Central Province in March and April 1991, on September 1 1991, January 23-24 1993, and for the following SSB contests: CQ WW 1991 (October 26-27 1991), ARRL 1992 (March 7-8 1992) and IARU (July 11-12 1992). P20A was active from Central Province for CQ WPX SSB 1992 (March 28-29 1992). All other activity by P29DX and P20A (including CQ WW SSB contest 1992) was from the NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT.

MANUS PROVINCE: P29KDE (1 only).

WESTERN PROVINCE: P29PT (1 only).

MILNE BAY PROVINCE: P29's KJR and MI. (Total 2).

MOROBE PROVINCE: P29's LL and NEK. (Total 2).

NEW IRELAND PROVINCE: P29's HF and MK. (Total 2).

WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE: P29's KRN, RJ and RT. (Total 3).

EAST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE: P29's EI, FS, KNJ and RB. (Total 4).

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE: P29's MM, NRA and PA. (Total 4).

EAST SEPIK PROVINCE: P29's AI, CH, FE, NCH, NJK, WH and WK. (Total 7).

ENGA PROVINCE: P29's GL, KJE, LB, MP, SL, ZBL, ZLM and ZRP. (Total 8).

MADANG PROVINCE: P29's AP, JP, KBP, KH, MO, MR, MW, RE, RL, WY and ZE. (Total 11).

WESTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE: P29's AT, BN, EE, FO, KDJ, KPB, NEY, NJ, NJS, NMD, NVG, PF, ZMF and ZRG. (Total 14).

EASTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE: P29's CT, CW, DK, DN, DO, DS, DY, GK, GN, IL, JR, KN, KS, NB, NRJ, NTH, PC, PI, SC, SF, SR, ST, WB, XH, ZAB and ZAH. (Total 26). In addition, P20X plans to be active from E.H.P. during the CQ WPX SSB contest March 27-28 1993.

NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT (N.C.D.): P29's AM, AS, BL, BT, DF, DJ, DX, EH, EK, EV, JA, JM, KGW, KJK, KOG, KP, KT, MC, NCP, NCS, NFP, NMY, NOD, NPK, NPN, NPP, NSM, PG, PH, PJ, PL, RD, SS, TS, UV, XA, ZFS, ZGD, ZHM, ZJS, ZNQ, ZRM, ZWW and ZWY. (Total 44).

1993 MELLISH REEF DXPEDITION

An international group of DXers have formed a team with the plan of activating Mellish Reef this September. The operators include Bill VK4CRR, Harry VK2RQ/VK2BJL, Steve P29DX/G4JVG, Murray WA4DAN and Jack KB7NW, who will captain the yacht "Banyandah" on yet another Pacific DXpedition. Jack captained the "Banyandah" on the successful 1982 Mellish Reef/Willis Island DXpedition, among others. Harry VK2RQ/VK2BJL is a veteran of two previous Mellish Reef DXpeditions, including the one in 1982.

The group plans to have three to four stations operational around the clock during the eight day stay on the reef. Operations will be on 160-6m, utilising mono-band yagis on the higher bands and a combination of verticals and wire antennas on the lower frequencies. Legal limit amplifiers will be used.

Applications for funding are being mailed to all DX Foundations and clubs. This letter is part of a grass roots campaign to get the word out and to appeal to interested DXers worldwide to help support this very difficult undertaking. A substantial deposit has already been made on the yacht "Banyandah". Generators, antennas, masts, fuel, coax, tents etc. will need to be purchased. Estimated cost for this DXpedition is approximately \$30,000. If you would like to support this DXpedition, we would like to hear from you. Any contributions will be appreciated and used for the non-personal expenses on the DXpedition.

Any donations, questions, or additional information requests should be directed to Murray Adams WA4DAN, or Bill Horner VK4CRR at the addresses listed below. Cheques should be made payable to the "1993 Mellish Reef DXpedition". In the event the DXpedition is cancelled, all monies will be returned. Please enclose an s.a.s.e. so we can mail you an update before we depart for Mellish Reef. Please pass the word to all your DXer friends. Thank you!

Murray D. Adams WA4DAN
1993 Mellish Reef DXped
403 East 14th Street
Greenville, NC 27858
USA

Bill Horner VK4CRR
1993 Mellish Reef DXped
26 Iron Street
Gympie, QLD 4570
Australia

Mellish Reef - September 1993, by Steve Telenius-Lowe P29DX/G4JVG

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will probably have seen a copy of the letter the 1993 Mellish Reef DXpedition team is sending out to DXers and DX clubs throughout the world. Bren G4DYO has kindly agreed to be a collection point for donations from DX News Sheet readers and others in the U.K., so instead of sending them to USA or Australia please forward any donations on to Bren. I was speaking to Martin G3ZAY recently who said that although Mellish Reef is definitely wanted in Britain, the CDXC coffers are rather low since support was given to the KH1 and KH5/KH5K expeditions. While the committee is no doubt sympathetic about supporting the DXpedition, he was not sure how much money would be available. This means that support from individuals is even more important to us.

I have operated from 25 DXCC countries including some fairly rare ones (VK9Y, OJ0, ZK2) but this is the first time I have ever asked for donations for a DXpedition. In a way it is against my principles, but in this case the cost of the expedition means that it would not be activated without outside assistance (no matter who was activating it) and I guess if we did not do it then someone else would!

CDXC members may be interested in the background to the expedition. Since moving to P29 in 1991 I have been looking at the possibility of putting on one of the rare Pacific DXCC countries, but it wasn't until I met Murray WA4DAN at the New Orleans International DX Convention in August last year that plans to activate Mellish began to be formulated. After several IOTA operations and the successful KP1 and KP5 DXpeditions Murray was looking for a rarer country to activate and together we decided Mellish would be worth an attempt. After I returned to P29 I found out that VK4CRR and VK2RQ were both also looking at putting on Mellish this year, so the three groups combined forces.

Bill VK4CRR recently operated as VK9LD from Lord Howe Island and has plans to activate Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling too, although these are now "on hold" until after Mellish. He has also activated a number of VK4 IOTA island groups. Harry VK2RQ is probably better known as VK2BJL and is one of the few people to have operated twice from Mellish Reef already. Jack KB7NW is both skipper of "Banyandah" and a DXpedition operator. He was one of the 1978 VK9ZR operators, was VS5JB from Brunei, captained "Banyandah" to the Spratly Islands for the 1979 1S1DX operation, operated from Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island in 1981 on the AD0S/KH5 and KH5K expedition, and in the same year took "Banyandah" to Tokelau, then ZM7. In 1982 he returned to Mellish Reef with Harry VK2RQ for a second expedition.

We are lucky to have such an experienced group of expeditioners, particularly with respect to Mellish Reef, and being at sea in a small boat. "Banyandah" has recently completed a circumnavigation of the world. It is a 12 metre 15 tonne vessel, fully equipped with all the necessary safety equipment.

STOP PRESS!!!! A larger boat has now been hired, which means that there is now a larger team is able to go. Members are still to be finalised, but there should be one well known CDXC member among them!! The new vessel is a 60ft racing yacht. A team of eight with the possible inclusion of Vince Thompson and DJ9ZB should ensure this is the biggest operation in this part of the Pacific for many years.

The reason Mellish Reef is rare is that it is both difficult and expensive to get to. We anticipate spending a total of no less than 11 days on the high seas, more time than we will spend actually operating on the island! Mellish Reef is located about 550 nautical miles off the east coast of Queensland in the eastern Coral Sea. Most previous expeditions have sailed from Cairns, but this adds a further 100 miles to the journey: we plan to leave from Bundaberg, a port 300 kms north of Brisbane, but more than 1100 kms to the south of Cairns.

Mellish Reef is a submerged coral reef several kms long and less than 1 km wide. The only part above water at all times is a sand bar called Herald's Beacon Islet, which is about 150 metres long by 50 metres wide and 2 metres above sea level. It has no vegetation other than patches of tuft grass but it does provide a home for several species of sea bird. The outer barrier reef offers protection from the prevailing south-east wind and swell.

We anticipate setting up two camps on the island, as widely separated as possible. There will be two HF stations at each camp, plus a 6 metre station. We should be operating 3 stations most of the time, and 4 stations at peak propagation times. If propagation dictates, we hope we will be able to operate two stations on the same band simultaneously - there has already been much thought and discussion about antenna placement.

In the 1992 "Most Wanted Countries" survey, Mellish Reef stood at No. 26 overall and at No. 8 in Europe. Since the survey was carried out there have been major operations from Bangladesh, Kingman Reef and Baker and Howland, and smaller operations from several other countries ranked higher on the list. A major expedition from the Spratly Islands (surprisingly still at No. 9 overall) is expected in April. By September, Mellish should be a "Top 20" country and should be in 5th or 6th place for European DXers. We will therefore target Europe (and also eastern North America), as the most "needy" areas of the world, and hope to make many thousands of QSOs with European stations.

It is not a particularly difficult propagation path to Europe, and is certainly a lot easier on most bands than KH1 or KH5 to Europe: indeed P29 to eastern North America is definitely more difficult than P29 to Europe. I regularly have 59 each way QSOs with G stations from P29 on 15m using just a single element wire delta loop in a very poor location. Using a mono-band beam from a QTH surrounded by hundreds of miles of salt water I expect signals to be very strong indeed. Propagation from Mellish should be very similar to that from P29 or eastern Australia, so VK4CRR, VK2RQ and myself are already familiar with the sort of propagation we can expect from Mellish. The timing of the expedition was because of the peak in propagation expected at the equinox. This is particularly important now that we are on the downward spiral of the sunspot cycle. It is also the time of year when we are most likely to get good weather for the duration of the trip: devastating cyclones sweep across the Coral Sea between late October and March most years.

Exact dates, transmit and listening frequencies and QSL information will be released closer to the time. I look forward to working as many CDXC members as possible in September!

P29 PIDGIN RADIO DICTIONARY

Papua New Guinea has over 700 mutually unintelligible languages and therefore Pidgin English has developed as a lingua franca to enable communication between different peoples within the country. When that communication is by "wailis" (radio) some explanations are often necessary. The following is from the glossary in the PTC Spectrum Management Department's "Handbook for Radiotelephone Ship Station Operators" (with translations by P29DX for all you non-pidgin speakers out there):

BIKEN (Beacon) Samting bilong mekim belo o mekim radio signal (something that makes a bellow - noise - or radio signal)

DES (Dash) Longpela nois bilong moskod (Long morse code noise)

DISTRES (Distress) Bikpela trabel o bagarup (Big trouble or bugger-up ["bagarup" is the correct, and perfectly acceptable, pidgin word for anything that has broken down])

DOT (Dot) Sotpela nois bilong moskod (Short morse code noise)

ERIEL (Aerial) Waia bilong wailis i go antap (Wire on top of the radio, or literally wire belonging to the wireless, it goes on top)

ESENSI (Urgency) Trabel i no bikpela (c.f. "DISTRES")

FRIKWENSI (Frequency) Mak o namba bilong wailis (Mark or number on a radio)

INSULETA (Insulator) Gumi i karamapim waia bilong banisim paua (Rubber covering up wire that stops - banishes - the power)

KOL/KOLIM (Call - noun/verb) Singaut/Singautim (a "sing out" or to sing out)

KOLSAIN (Callsign) Mak o namba bilong wan wan stesin (Mark or number belonging to only one station)

MEDIKAL (Medical) Bilong man i gat sik o bagarup (Referring to a man who has become sick or is otherwise "bagarup")

MOSKOD (Morse code) Wei bilong salim toktok long nois tasol (Way to send talk by noise alone [tasol - that's all])

RISIVA (Receiver) Hap wailis bilong harim toktok (Half of radio to hear talk)

TRANSMITA (Transmitter) Hap wailis bilong salim toktok (Half of radio to send talk)

So, if a P29 should say to you "Risiva bilong mi i go bagarup, singaut kolsain bilong yu narapela 'taim" you'll now know just what he means.

P29DX QSL CARDS

**The following is printed with the kind permission of
Worldradio (tnx G/OZ7SM)**

"A nice QSL card was received from P29DX. It has a photograph of the indigenous people on it. Nice touch. QSL cards have a lot more meaning when some special effort has been made. We're certainly going to attract more interest in the attraction of becoming a radio amateur when we show "civilians" QSL cards that are symbolic of something. The slight extra charge of printing with the meaning will be money well spent."

- Armond, N6WR

CDXC DX Day 1992

In accordance with the rules published in CDXC Newsletter, two (yes 2) entries were received by the closing date of 31st January.

G3SXW scored 72 points.

G4ODV scored 95 points.

I therefore declare that Brian Coyne, G4ODV, is the winner of CDXC DX Day 1992. The committee apologises for the delay in publishing the rules for this event. The Club will hold it again this year and endeavour to raise the profile of this competition.

Brendan McCartney
CDXC Awards Manager

CONTEST NEWS

CQ WPX SSB 1992 RESULTS

Congratulations to Steve GW4BLE for attaining the No 1 position in Europe in last year's WPX SSB. A tremendous effort!. Steve P29DX came sixth in the world on 10m another great effort especially as he has to retire from the contest 12 hours before the end because he was struck with a bad dose of malaria!!

Trophy Winners:

Single Operator - All Band

EUROPE - Jim Hoffman, N5FA Trophy. Won by Steve Cole GW4BLE.

World Top Scores

High Power - All Band

14th (No. 1 EU) GW4BLE - 7,231,872

Single band

14MHZ - 3rd GB8FX (G3FXB) - 4,984,488

1.8 MHZ - 2nd G4PKP - 36,080

Multi Operator - Single Transmitter

6th GB6BT - 12,001,386

11th FF0XX - 10,494,536

17th GB8LC - 9,087,636

QRP/P Section - Worldwide - 29th G4MET - 24,282

MULTI OPERATOR - SINGLE TRANSMITTER - EUROPE

3rd TM5C 12,001,386

6th FF0XX 10,494,536

9th GB8LC 9,087,636

16th GX0OBS 5,971,680

24th GX0PNW 4,955,720

44th G0FDX 1,808,313

49th GX5QK/P 1,547,440

61st GB0WOX 859,876

72nd GS0AEE/P 396,664

In the CW leg of the contest G4FAM took world top honours on 3.5MHz at the controls of GW8GT, setting a new European record in the process, while G3LNS was second. GB8FX (G3FXB) was 1st in Europe, single-op, all-band.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1993

Don G3OZF is looking for additional members to make up the 1993 CDXC team. He is particularly looking for people to help put things up and take them down again as well as another operator or two. The site is located in between Aylesbury and High Wycombe and accommodation can be arranged if necessary. Please drop Don a line on the Cluster or on 0296 748354. This is always a fun event... the more the merrier!!

SOLICITORS....

By Paul Evans, G4BKI (Taken from PacketCluster)

It seems the practice of soliciting Contest callers by spotting your own call is a growth industry. IT IS CLEARLY AGAINST THE SPIRIT AND/OR RULES OF CONTESTING. The most extreme form seems to exist in 160m contests, where the Solicitor looks at the sh/c list, sees several Ws logged in and spots himself with Freqs, timing, etc. for ALL to see!!!! This normally brings forth several W QSOs which would never have been made otherwise. I thought the idea of contesting was to go on a band, call CQ, get answered and complete an ACCURATE QSO for the points. Picking up the "speaker phone" to the States (that's what the cluster is, when you think about it) and saying "hey, you might not hear me otherwise, but here I am come and get me" is just not on. I suggest several things: If you see someone doing this, tell them off. If you see them doing this again, report them to the adjudicators of that contest for cheating. Send a message to Pavillion Software suggesting that logged in users should be locked out from spotting themselves (why have this "feature" anyway?). Sorry if this creates a storm, but it makes my blood boil!

Paul.

(Cheating in contests is by no means a widespread thing. It is confined as always to a minority who think it is clever and that they can get away with it. This is not the case, and many organisations that hold contests are well aware of the offenders. But as Paul says, help keep contesting the clean sport it is by telling adjudicators of any irregularities. We do listen! Ed.)

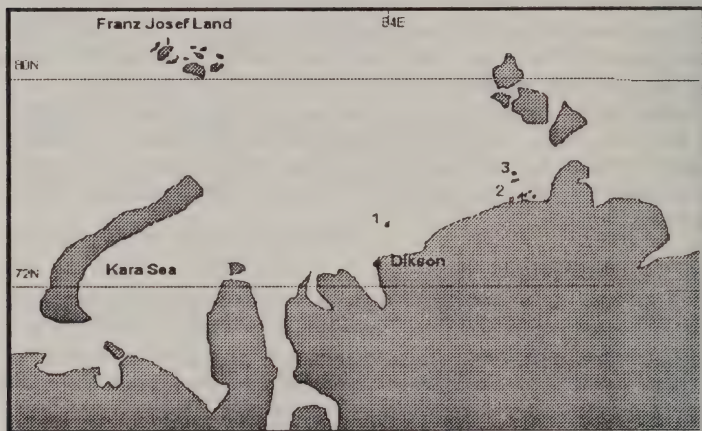


IOTA DXPEDITION TO SIBERIA

An Anglo-Ukrainian DXpedition is due to take place between 20th and 30th of May 1993 to three very rare island groups in the Kara Sea and North East Passage area of Northern Siberia. The expedition has been organised by Victor, UB5LGM and is due to leave Moscow around the 20th of May. Operators (so far) are Victor, UB5LGM and Andrew, G0HSD. Two Russian operators will also be chosen in the near future. Only one of these groups has been aired before, so the operators aim to make as many contacts as possible and ask for your co-operation in making the operation a success. Further details will be announced on the PacketCluster Network as and when they become available.

We are all looking forward to this exciting and physically demanding expedition and to travel in the wake of the *Fram* and *Vega* into the unknown lands of the far North. We wish you every success in making contact with us from each group.

Andrew, G0HSD



- 1) Arkticheskogo Instituta Is. (AS-087)
- 2) Kara Sea Coast East (AS-???)
- 3) Nordenshel'da Archipelago (AS-???)

A MEMORABLE DAY

by Gail Stevens, G0GRK

I was recently most honoured to be one of six chosen to operate a special event station at the official opening of our Conquest Hospital in Hastings on 11 February. The Medical Director of the Hastings and Rother Trust is John Craig G3SGR who is a very active novice tutor and it was he who arranged for security clearance for us all as the hospital was going to be opened by HRH The Princess Royal.

The Conquest Hospital was opened to patients in July last year. Before then, Hastings relied on three very old hospital buildings in different parts of the town. The new hospital is absolutely up to date with all the very latest equipment and technology. John G3SGR's department (radiology, I think) has millions of pounds worth of brand new equipment. The people of Hastings are very lucky to have this new hospital.

We set up the station in a porters' room right next to the main entrance. My OM's dipole was strung unobtrusively between two towers on the roof and the feeder was brought in through the window. We used the Hastings Electronics and Radio Club's Ten Tec HF rig and we also set up a packet station using a handheld rig. The packet station was not too successful although we could show it running.

We thought, at first, that our signal was not much good as no-one wanted to answer my CQ calls. We couldn't get the rig to load on 80m so we stayed on 40m all day. The TenTec has a nasty habit of switching itself off if the SWR is too high. Give me my Kenwood TS930 any day!

Eventually, a Frenchman plucked up the courage to speak to me and after that, there was no shortage of callers with a good pile-up most of the time.

The Princess Royal arrived at 10.30 by helicopter and we stopped transmitting while she walked past looking in completely the opposite direction!

One of the highlights of my day was when our local true blue MP., Jacqui Lait, wearing a bright red suit, popped her head round the door with John G3SGR. At that moment, I was having a nice chat with a gentleman in GI so I thrust the microphone in Jacqui Lait's hand and told her to say hello. When the GI came back, I think he was suffering from severe shock as he was laughing so much. He said that he had never spoken to an MP before!! I think he nearly fell off his chair! She spoke to him for a minute or so and I had great trouble recovering the microphone from her! M.P.s certainly now how to talk! I have to say, though, that she was a very good sport.

We also managed to get a few other members of the public to pass greetings messages on the air including the Chief Executive, Geoffrey.

We were also surprised at the number of hospital staff members who popped in who were licensed amateurs. It appears that they all knew each other but didn't know that they had the same hobby in common!

My son, Tristan, 2E1ASF, was pleased to take the day off school and come along to help. Also present were

Reg G3YYF (HERC Secretary), Eric G3FHN and Stuart G4WCP.

Tristan and I really enjoyed ourselves and we can't wait for the next special event in our area.

MOUNT ATHOS

The following is reproduced without comment. This is obviously a sensitive topic, and we may never know the full story.

Mount Athos March 22, 1993

Greetings to all of you, DX friends all over the world. I feel the need to communicate with you and to give you the real reasons, officially, why Mt. Athos is no longer heard on the air and when will it finally do so, because many rumors circulate and many things are written without containing a grain of truth I have stopped broadcasting 15 months ago from Mt. Athos, because ARRL has officially recognized the illegal broadcasts of the German ham Drobica Baldur DJ6SI. I have in my hands all the legal documents which prove the fraud and of the recognition of the illegal broadcasts of the said ham. This fact has caused a lot of upheaval here on Mt. Athos, as well as disgust, because it is against the articles of the Charter on the basis of which (the Monastic Community) is governed, and which has been respected for over 1000 years, and which (Charter) has been respected by all, even the most cruel invaders. ARRL taking this particular attitude, allows -on purpose- time to go by and considers it a given fact. ARRL members spread the rumors they will have Mount Athos removed from the

DXCC-countries list because it is no longer available on the air. Dear Sirs, Mt. Athos is ready and waiting for ARRL to live up to its responsibility and rise above interests and ulterior motives and cancel the illegal broadcasts of DJ6SI, so that (Mt. Athos) will be once again heard on the air. Other rumors circulating about Mt. Athos going on the air again, are totally misleading. They aim at placating the decent hams or the world who justifiably wish to establish contacts with Mt. Athos, the sole -on a World Wide scale- Monastic Christian Center with its rich history and its current growing presence, so they can acquire its coveted QSL.

I truly regret, dear friends, the way things have developed, but as an rationalist Orthodox Monk living here on Mount Athos, this locus of prayer and meditation, I cannot accept what has happened and what the ARRL continues to embrace with its official support. I have faith in God that soon the correct solution will be provided by ARRL and that this way I will once again join you on the air.

I send you my best wishes from Mount Athos. God bless you.

Apollo, Monk
SV2ASP/A

MONK APOLLO
DOCHIARIOU
MONASTERY
MOUNT ATHOS
GR-63087 GREECE

RSGB HF COMMITTEE

As CDXC Liaison member of the RSGB HF Committee, I thought it might be useful for CDXC members to know what the RSGB Committee's function is, who its members are, and what topics are being dealt with.

Function

The RSGB HF Committee's brief is to deal with a wide range of HF matters. The main points covered are:

- Representing the views of UK & Overseas members on HF matters
- Protecting the HF bands for amateur use
- Provision of new HF facilities
- Advising members on HF related matters
- Promoting operating excellence on the HF bands
- Responding to RSGB Council's list of priorities, and responding to Council
- Organising the annual International HF Convention
- Forging & promoting links with DXNS, CDXC, & IOTA

Membership

The HF Committee membership is made up of both full and corresponding members. Full members and their specific function on the HF Committee are listed below.

Member	Call	Function
Dr. John Allaway	G3FKM	Council representative
Martin Atherton	G3ZAY	HF Manager
Roger Balister	G3KMA	IOTA
John Bazley	G3HCT	LAC Chairman
David Evans	G3OUF	Chairman
Paul Evans	G4BKI	HF Contests Committee
Fred Handscombe	G4BWP	IHFC Organisation
Alan Jubb	G3PMR	CDXC Liaison. Also Meeting Secretary
Dave Lawley	G4BUO	HF Contest Committee Chairman

Corresponding Members are:

Norman Bedford, GM3YTS, GW5AF, G6LX, G4UJS, G4AZV, G4ADD, GM4XQJ, G3PJT, as well as the Chairmen of the DCC, EMC & IARU Committees.

Current Business

The HFC is dealing with a wide range of subjects. The major current & recent ones are listed below.

Code Free Licence

You will have seen the item on this subject in RadCom & other amateur radio magazines. The response has been staggering, with more than 1000 letters having been received. All those who have sent in comments will receive an acknowledgement, but as you can imagine, due to the volume, this may take some time. David Evans is currently analysing the response, before discussing the HF Committee report, which will be published in RADCOM. I will also publish details in the next News Letter.

Expansion of HF frequencies to Novices

The novice frequencies have been extended down 5kHz on 80m, and down 40kHz on 10m. They now cover those frequencies currently used by the G-QRP club as its meeting points. This was done in association with the G-QRP Club. The changes were published in a Gazette Notice on February 1st 1993.

RSGB Commonwealth Award.

In association with Bill Ricalton, G4ADD, RSGB HF Awards Manager, the HFC has agreed modify the rules of the RSGB Commonwealth Award in order to remove various anomalies. These mainly concern claims for credit for non Commonwealth call signs in Antarctica, S. Georgia, S. Shetland, S. Sandwich & S. Orkney, and, in respect of the 5 band award, the status of deleted Commonwealth countries. The revised rules are available from G4ADD.

Incentive Licensing

RSGB Council has asked the HFC to propose a scheme for incentive licensing. This subject is still under discussion by the HFC, with advice from G4AZV. When a proposal is finalised, output from the HFC will go to the Licensing Advisory Committee.

29MHz Repeater Policy

The HFC has agreed with the IARU proposal that, in periods of low sun spot activity, experimentation should be permitted at the top end of 29MHz. This agreement is made on the expectation that experimental results will be properly written up, and expects authority to be withdrawn if this is not done in a satisfactory manner.

Exclusive Frequencies for DX Clusters on bands above 30MHz

The HFC have proposed to the DCC that PacketClusters should be allocated an exclusive channel on each of the bands from 6m to 23cm. The Chairman of DCC is in agreement in principle with the idea of separate channels for each of the four main types of packet users (user to PacketCluster, user to BBS, user to user, & TCPIP). However, the proposal has not yet been discussed by the DCC. Inter node linking is not within the scope of this proposal.

This should certainly help cluster access for many of those who have problems staying connected to a cluster as a result of QRM on the access channel. (eg yours truly!)

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

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155BA	5 ELE 15	£345.00
204BA	4 ELE 20	£429.00
205BA	5 ELE 20	£509.00

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RC5B-3	For very large arrays	£689.00
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G-2700	Yaesu HD rotators	£649.00
G2000	Yaesu HD rotators	£454.00
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G800	450 degrees vari speed	£332.00
GC-038	Lower clamp	
	G800/1000	£17.35
CK46	Rotary bearing	£35.75

CABLES

LDF4-50	Per mtr	£5.17
LDF2-50		£4.23
H100		£1.08
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